

FACT SHEET



BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE OF ONIZUKA AIR FORCE STATION

Onizuka Air Force Station, a military satellite communications station for the Air Force Satellite Control Network, that also supports NASA missions, has been slated for closure by the Department of Defense, with its military mission transferring to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County. The installation is located adjacent to U.S. 101 in Sunnyvale.

Onizuka Air Force Station Site Information

- 23 acre site
- Approximately 614,000 square feet of office/support facilities space
- Approximately 13 military, 152 federal civilian and 233 contract employees
- Address: 1080 Innovation Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94089; located off of Mathilda Avenue just north of State Route 237 and U.S. 101.

Background

- Department of Defense (DOD) purchased 11.4 acres of land from Lockheed for one dollar in 1960 and built the Air Force Satellite Test Center. In 1968, DOD purchased an additional 11.6 acres from Lockheed for \$49,100 and completed construction of the Blue Cube. In 1971 the Test Center was renamed Sunnyvale Air Force Station, and in 1986 it was renamed Onizuka Air Force Station in honor of Lt Col Ellison S. Onizuka, an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger.
- Construction on the predominant light blue, windowless, cube-shaped building (often referred to as the “Blue Cube”) started in 1967 and was completed in 1968.
- Some of the operations at Onizuka AFS are classified, but since the 1960s Onizuka has performed satellite communications and support for NASA missions.
- During the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, the 750th Space Group realigned some missions to Falcon Air Force Base in Colorado and realigned the remaining missions under the 21st Space Operations Squadron (21 SOPS) at Onizuka. Realignment in 1995 resulted in a workforce reduction of nearly 1,100 jobs. Currently, 21 SOPS hosts Onizuka AFS operations and tenant units.

- In 2005, Onizuka AFS was recommended for closure by DOD and the BRAC Commission, and endorsed by the president. The mission currently being performed by Onizuka AFS units will be transferred to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County.

Steps in the Reuse Planning Process

- November 9, 2005: 2005 BRAC Commission list becomes law.
- April 6, 2006: City of Sunnyvale was formally recognized by the DOD as the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) for Onizuka AFS. The LRA serves as the primary community point of contact for all matters relating to closure of Onizuka AFS, conducts outreach efforts and designs a comprehensive reuse plan.
- May 9, 2006: Anticipated date to learn surplus status of the property. Military departments have up to 180 days to make surplus determination and publish a list of surplus properties in the Federal Register.
- Summer of 2006: LRA will publish an ad requesting Notices of Interest in the property and will form a Citizen's Advisory Committee comprised of diverse stakeholders to provide input to the LRA during the reuse planning process.
- Summer/fall 2007: LRA completes the Reuse Plan for Onizuka AFS.
- Summer/fall 2008: DOD issues its formal Record of Decision which describes how the base will be transferred; this is the formal decision document of the environmental impact study.
- September 15, 2011: Onizuka AFS closure and realignment must be completed.